

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-17 were pending. By this paper, claims 1-2 and 8-17 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 3-7 are amended as shown above. Claims 3-7 are amended into independent form. Support for these claim amendments is found throughout the application as originally filed. No new matter is added through these amendments. Entry is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-7 were indicated as including allowable subject matter. (See Office Action, p. 4, ¶¶ 5 and 6.). Accordingly, independent claims 3-7 are respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants have chosen in the interest of expediting prosecution of this patent application to distinguish the cited documents from the pending claims as set forth above. These statements should not be regarded in any way as admissions that the cited documents are, in fact, prior art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the claims presented herein are believed patentably distinct over the art of record and Applicants respectfully request that the respective rejections be withdrawn and the application be allowed as the application is hereby placed in condition for allowance.

If any outstanding issues remain, however, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Serial No. 10/728,425
Reply to Office Action dated July 24, 2006
Amendment dated October 24, 2006


AUTHORIZATION

While no petition for an extension of time is believed necessary, should an extension of time be necessary to render this filing timely, such is hereby petitioned and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5216.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

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